WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device control apparatus, comprising:

control circuitry having first terminals and second terminals, said control circuitry being configured to assert a first input device selection signal to switching circuitry in response to closing of a first switch and to assert a second input device selection signal to the switching circuitry in response to closing of a second switch, said first switch comprising the first terminals and a first movable contact, said second switch comprising the second terminals and a second movable contact;

a frame configured for mounting at least two rubberized keys in positions so that one of the keys selectively contacts the first terminals and another of the keys selectively contacts the second terminals; and

a first one of the rubberized keys mounted to the frame, said first one of the rubberized keys implementing the first movable contact.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, also including:

a second one of the rubberized keys mounted to the frame, said second one of the rubberized keys implementing the second movable contact.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, also including a retaining element mounted over at least a portion of the frame and over at least a portion of each of the rubberized keys so as to retain the rubberized keys in said positions.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the retaining element is made of transparent material.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, also comprising:

first switching circuitry having terminals configured to be coupled to an audio-visual projector and to at least two projector input devices, and wherein

the control circuitry is configured to assert a first input device selection signal to the first switching circuitry in response to closing of the first switch and to assert a second input device selection signal to the first switching circuitry in response to closing of the second switch.

16. A device control apparatus capable of controlling connection of any selected one of at least two input devices to a controllable device, said apparatus comprising:

input device selection keys, each of the selection keys corresponding to one of the input devices;

control circuitry coupled to the input device selection keys, configured to be coupled to switching circuitry, and configured to assert a different input device selection signal to the switching circuitry in response to actuation of each of the selection keys to cause the switching circuitry to connect the controllable device to a corresponding one of the input devices;

a set of light sources, including a controllable light source for each of the input device selection keys;

a frame to which the control circuitry and the keys are mounted, wherein the frame has slots extending through said frame for receiving labels, and each of the slots is positioned between one of the light sources and one of the input device selection keys; and

labels mounted over the slots, each of said labels comprising transparent material marked with a legend identifying one of the input devices.



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7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each of the light sources is an electro-luminescent light source driven by the control circuitry.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each of the labels is made of transparent polycarbonate film pre-printed with said legend.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said apparatus is an audio-visual projector control apparatus, the controllable device is an audio-visual projector, and the input devices are projector input devices.

10. The apparatus of claim 6, also comprising:

first switching circuitry mounted to the frame and having terminals configured to be coupled to the controllable device and to the at least two input devices, and wherein the control circuitry is configured to assert each said input device selection signal to the first switching circuitry.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said apparatus is an audio-visual projector control apparatus, the controllable device is an audio-visual projector, and each of the input devices is a projector input device.

12. A method for detecting power status of a remotely located device, said method including the steps of:

(a) coupling a current sensor to the device such that the current sensor generates an output signal indicative of power consumption of the device;

(b) asserting a command to the device to cause the device to enter a power off state and generating, from the resulting output signal, data indicative of



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power consumption of the device when said device is off;

(c) asserting a command to the device to cause the device to enter a power on state and generating, from the resulting output signal, additional data indicative of power consumption of the device when said device is on;

(d) processing the data and the additional data to determine a threshold value indicative of a power consumption value between the device's power consumption when the device is off and the device's power consumption when the device is on;

(e) after steps (a) through (d), performing a threshold comparison in which the output signal from the current sensor is compared with the threshold value, and determining power status of the device as a result of the threshold comparison.

13. The method of claim 12, also including the step of:

illuminating an indicator for a predetermined time interval after determining that the device has changed state from a power off state to a power on state.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the remotely located devices is a remotely located projector.

15. The method of claim 14, also including the step of:

illuminating an indicator for a predetermined time interval after determining that the projector has changed state from a power off state to a power on state.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the output signal from the current sensor is indicative of a

value proportional to the power being consumed by the device.

17. An audio-visual projector control system, including:

an audio-visual projector;

a sensor coupled to the projector so as to generates an output signal indicative of power consumption of the projector;

control circuitry coupled to the sensor and configured to assert a power off command to the projector and generate from the resulting output signal a first quantity of data indicative of power consumption of the projector when said projector is off, to assert a power on command to the projector and generate from the resulting output signal a second quantity of data indicative of power consumption of the projector when said projector is on, to process the first quantity of data and the second quantity of data to determine a threshold value indicative of a power consumption value between the projector's power consumption when the projector is off and the projector's power consumption when the projector is on, and to perform, after determining the threshold value, a threshold comparison in which the output signal from the sensor is compared with the threshold value, and to determine power status of the projector as a result of the threshold comparison;

an indicator coupled to the control circuitry and controlled by said control circuitry to indicate said power status of the projector.

18. A control apparatus, for use with an audio-visual projector configured to operate in response to a set of projector control commands from a special-purpose remote controller, said control apparatus including:

control keys; and

projector control circuitry coupled to the control keys and configured to be coupled to the projector and to the special-purpose remote controller, wherein the projector control circuitry is operable in a learning mode in which the projector control circuitry receives the projector control commands from the special-purpose remote controller and stores command data corresponding to each of said projector control commands, and wherein the projector control circuitry is also configured to operate after the learning mode in a normal mode in which the projector control circuitry accesses a quantity of the command data in response to user actuation of the control keys and asserts at least one control signal emulating at least one of the projector control commands in response to each accessed quantity of the command data.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, also including:

status detection circuitry configured to detect a power consumption status of the projector; and

at least one indicator coupled to the status detection circuitry and driven by said status detection circuitry to indicate visually the power consumption status of the projector.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the special-purpose remote controller can be controlled to emit infrared radiation encoded with the projector control commands, said apparatus also including:

an infrared signal receiving port configured to be coupled to the projector control circuitry during the learning mode to receive said infrared radiation from the special-purpose remote controller during the learning mode.